

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed February 9, 2006.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as the phrase “the above buffer layer” lacked antecedent basis. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

As the Examiner will note, the offending phrase in claim 10 has been replaced with “the first buffer layer”, and the previously recited phrase “another buffer layer” has been replaced with “a second buffer layer.” Claim 1, therefore, has been amended to recite that the claimed “buffer” is the “first buffer.” All claims dependent upon amended claim 1 have been suitably amended to reflect this amendment.

The outstanding Office Action objected to claim 9 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and that of any intervening claims. In reliance thereon, the present amendment incorporates the subject matter of allowable claim 9 into independent claim 1. Claim 1 and its dependent claims, therefore, are believed to be allowable. Claim 9 has been canceled.

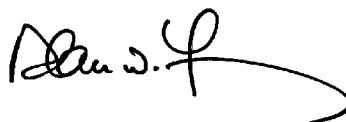
New claims 13-23 are presented herewith, each dependent upon allowable independent claim 1. No new matter has been added.

As all pending claims are believed to be allowable as incorporating allowable subject matter, the 35 USC §103(a) rejection is believed to be moot and is not discussed further herein.

Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance. If any unresolved issues remain, please contact the undersigned attorney of record at the telephone number indicated below and whatever is necessary to resolve such issues will be done at once.

Authorization is being provided with this submission for payment of the fees due for additional claims under 37 C.F.R. §1.16(i) (Fee Code 1202) in the amount of \$100.00, to be charged to the American Express card ending in 2006. No additional fees are believed to be due herewith, however, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, and to credit any overpayment of fees, which may be required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 and §1.17, to Deposit Account No. 50-3159, referencing Atty. Docket No. WASH5920.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: March 21, 2006

By: _____

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